

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/721,959
Attorney Docket No. Q61990

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been examined. Claims 5-6 and 9 are allowed (Office Action: page 7). Claims 2 and 4 are objected to but contain allowable subject matter (*Id.*). Claims 1, 3 and 7-8, however, are rejected¹ (Office Action: pages 2-7 and 9-10).

Herein, the allowable subject matter of claim 2 is incorporated into rejected claim 1, and the allowable subject matter of claim 4 is incorporated into rejected claim 3. Consequently, claims 2 and 4 are canceled to avoid redundancy. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments overcome the art rejection of claims 1 and 3, and place claims 1 and 3 in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the art rejection of claims 7 and 8 are overcome, and claims 7 and 8 are placed in condition for immediate allowance, at least by virtue of their dependency.


In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application with claims 1, 3 and 5-9 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

¹ In particular, claims 1, 3, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,303,234 to Kou, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,347,513 to Abefelt et al.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Date: September 27, 2005